

Upper Animas Mining District – EPA Meeting at Region 8

USACE-Omaha Contract #W912QR-12-D-0001-DK01

Meeting Summary Notes and Associated Email Summary Notes

Thursday 5/21/2015 – 1pm to 3pm

Attendees:

Jon Vail, CB&I (prepared these notes)
Paula Schmittiel, EPA Superfund Remedial Project Manager
Richard Sisk, EPA Attorney
Donna Harrison, EPA Superfund Records
Phoebe MacLeish, EPA Regional Records Officer
Dave Christenson, EPA

The data search and organization/assemblage project awarded to CB&I is a prelude to remedial investigation (RI) and its intent is to identify data gaps to address in the upcoming RI.

Search Superfund and non-Superfund data; however, most non-Superfund data is likely not in electronic format. EPA has both Superfund and non-Superfund data.

The Upper Animas Mining District includes everything north of A72 (see applicable map) and downriver as far south as Durango on the main stem of the Animas River. Basically, search data for sites in San Juan County (small county) and downriver to Durango.

Data search should emphasize SAPs, QAPPs, lab reports, performance monitoring data, etc. as EPA is looking for quality data. However, EPA is interested in other data, reports, etc. that may provide information about a particular area/condition in the watershed.

The EPA helped define what was expected by a “comprehensive” review as stated in CB&I’s PWS. It should be defined as a reasonable review of available electronic data from the last 20-25 years (more emphasis placed on recent data) in order to meet CB&I’s contracted schedule.

Most Animas data has been scanned and is available electronically.

We went through the 11 bullets under PWS section 2.2.2:

1. USGS Professional Paper 1651 is critical to understanding the Animas River Watershed. Electronic copy can be found at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/1651/> and a hardcopy, if needed, can be purchased in person at the Denver Federal Center’s bookstore. Paula will send CB&I the important TMDLs.
2. The EPA has an electronic version of the Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) – the electronic file is too large to email so EPA will mail a CD to CB&I and USACE. A CD was mailed out on 5/22/15.
3. ARSG Section 319 sampling and reports can be found at CDPHE and EPA with possibly some at Colorado Dept of Reclamation, Minerals, and Safety (CDRMS). EPA will write a letter to CDPHE asking for electronic copies of their documents from the last 20-25 years for sites located in the Upper Animas Valley Watershed. If no response from CDPHE, then CB&I won’t include any CDPHE data in their review, only what CDPHE provides us. EPA may also send out letters to all other agencies/parties such as CDRMS, BLM, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, , etc.
4. USGS studies/investigations are available on the web. Paula will send a link to CB&I.
5. EPA sampling projects data is available in Scribe and Storet. Both are databases; no pdf document files. Download the Scribe software at www.ertsupport.org where there is also Scribe documentation and on-line training as well as a phone number and email address for ERT Support (no charge for

Scribe support). Once Scribe is installed on your computer, for the Upper Animas Reassessment the Subscription ID is AnimasSTART and the password is AS. For the UpperAnimasRiver the Subscription ID is UAnimas and the password is AN!m@5. Apparently to view or download the data, your computer requires Microsoft Access.

6. Ongoing EPA surface water sampling for Aquatic Ecological Risk Assessment – this data is in Scribe and Paula may also have this data. EPA's sampling program for this season – 2015 is in its QAPP. Copy will be provided to CB&I shortly for consideration in the data gap report.
7. EPA Site Assessment and Hazard Ranking System (HRS) data is available in Scribe.
8. BLM environmental data – Paula will contact the Durango BLM office to find out what data they have. BLM has done removal actions/remedial actions.
9. CDRMS data – Paula will contact Kristin Brown at CDRMS – they may have a lot of data.
10. Colorado Division of Game and Fish
11. Sunnyside Gold Company water quality data – available in the Superfund Data Management System (SDMS) – quality of some data may be suspect if tailgate analyses conducted. SDMS is an internal EPA portal available only to EPA personnel. This is where Superfund-related pdf'd documents are located.

For information for CB&I's work scope, CB&I should search the following agencies in this order of preference:

(1) EPA, (2) CDPHE, (3) CDRMS, (4) BLM, and (5) Game and Fish.

Three databases: Scribe, Storet, and GRTS = 98% of available information. All 3 are databases; no pdf'd documents. In a follow-up email sent to CB&I after the meeting, the EPA also suggested that the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) and possibly the AWQMS databases be searched. Karl Herman at EPA can help with AWQMS water quality data if CB&I decides to search this database but he isn't available until week of June 1st.

Data to search for includes samples for water quality, sediment, pore water (in sediment), benthic invertebrates, fish tissue, mine waste piles, leachability, etc.

The Cement Creek Area list of 518 documents is an index from SDMS. The last column on the far right of the spreadsheet indicates how many page numbers the document is. If "0", then it's a data package or a document that hasn't been scanned.

Paula will contact Don Goodrich for SMO Portal – this portal may not be relevant.

Paula will obtain a list of sites located in San Juan County (should be a short list) from Dianna Lim at EPA. Paula sent Dianna an email after the meeting that requested she search CERCLIS for all "sites" in both San Juan County and La Plata County - the reason for La Plata County is due to sampling downstream of Silverton along the Animas River as far as Durango (which is in La Plata County).

Once a list of sites is available, provide list to Dave Christenson at EPA and he will generate an index for full list of releasable files (publicly available files). Files that are not public will be reviewed by Richard Sisk and another index may be provided to CB&I – this will likely be a small list and probably not relevant to CB&I's scope. CB&I can provide search terms for SDMS to Phoebe and she will provide search results.

Non-Superfund Section 319 data for the Upper Animas may be provided via a web link from Nicole Plescia at EPA.

Please also check the ARSG webpage and data base which should have most (all?) of the EPA data along with ARSG data and perhaps other data. Could be duplicative of other databases but it may included data not found elsewhere.